Entitlement of First Class Accommodation in Train Journey

950. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some category of Government officials are entitled to travel while on official tour or availing of LTC, in First Class in trains;

(b) whether in view of the fact that first class accommodation in trains is systematically being phased out and Air conditioned compartments are being introduced, the entitlement of First class has outlived; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to review entitlement of First Class of Government officials in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSIONS AND PENSIONERS, WELFARE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) As per the provisions of Central Civil Services (Leave Travel Concession) Rules, 1988, as amended from time to time, as Government servant drawing pay of Rs. 4,100 and above but less than Rs. 8000/- is entitled to travel by First Class/A.C. Ill Tier Sleeper including Rajdhani/A.C. Chair Car while on tour or on LTC. The rule also permits that Government servants who are entitled to travel on tour/LTC by First Class/A.C. Ill Tier Sleeper/A.C. Chair Car may, at their discretion travel by A.C. II Tier Sleeper in cases where any of the trains connecting the originating and destination stations concerned by the direct shortest route do not provide these three classes of accommodation. The options to these categories of Government servants have been provided keeping in view - the Government's decision to phase out First Class Compartments/A.C. Chair Car. Therefore, there is no necessity to review the entitlement of First Class for Government officials.